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A NEW GENUS OF PHLAETHRIPIDAE FROM MEXICO

(THYSANOPTERA)

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Near Mexico City in the neighboring state of Puebla, Mr. Alvarez, in 1945, collected this new genus presumably from ground litter. These specimens, herein described, are not striking in their appearance, nor is it particularly unusual for new genera still to be found in Mexico. The noteworthy feature of this genus is its apparent relationship to two fossil thrips known from Baltic amber.

After comparisons had been made with forms and descriptions available to me, this species was sent to Prof. Dr. Hermann Priesner for his comments. He has written that it resembles *Cephenothrips* and *Necrothrips*, both fossils of his own description, but that it differs in many ways from either one of them.

My sincerest appreciation is accorded Dr. Priesner for his advice and suggestions and to Dr. F. Bonet for giving me the opportunity to study his collection of Thysanoptera from whence this species came.

Puebllothrips, new genus

Integument generally smooth, striations of the body except for the meso- and metascutum weak and indistinct; head (fig. 1) slightly broader than long, setae minute; eyes of moderate size, nearly as long as the cheeks (lateral margins of head measured from the base of eyes to base of head), ventral and dorsal aspects similar; ocelli present; mouth cones short and bluntly rounded, extending posteriorly from the head a distance about equal to the cheek length; antennae 8-segmented, areola of segment II located near the apex, segment III normal in size (fig. 3) with three apical sense cones, segment VIII not petiolate although slightly narrowed at base; sclerotized portion of pronotum broader than long and much broader than the head width, mid length about one half as long as head length, only posterior lateral setae developed, dilated at tip, other major

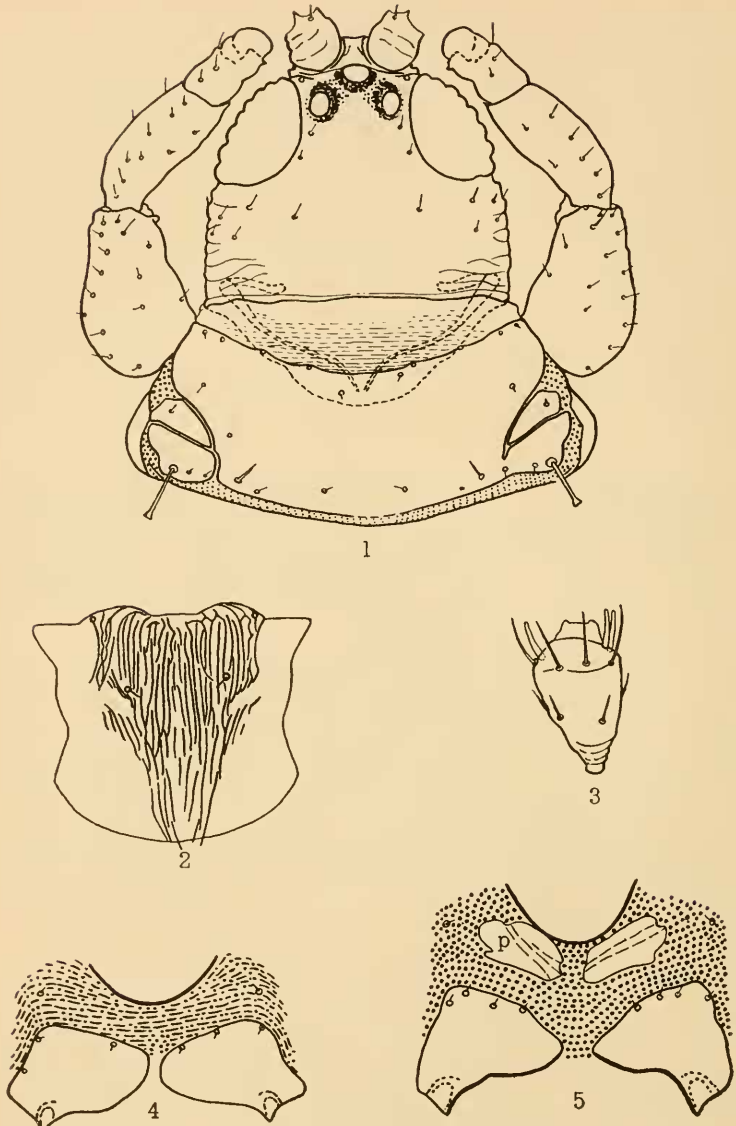


PLATE 22.

Figs. 1-4, *Pueblothrips minuta*, holotype ♂; fig. 1, head, pronotum, and fore legs, dorsal aspect; fig. 2, metascutum; fig. 3, right 3rd antennal segment, dorsal aspect; fig. 4, neck region of prosternum.

Fig. 5, *Neocheegeria verbasci* Osborn, ♂, neck region of prosternum showing prepectus (p).

setae minute; prosternum without prepectus (fig. 4—not as in fig. 5); metascutal striations closely spaced, longitudinally arranged with hardly any indications of hexagonal designs (fig. 2); fore tarsi of both sexes unarmed, fore femora broad; fore wings straight, slightly narrowed in the middle, sparsely fringed by hairs, basal wing bristles short, accessory hairs along trailing edge near apex few in number (about 4); abdomen normal; wing retaining setae barely sigmoidal; tube shorter than head, narrowed at apex.

Genotype.—*Pueblothrips minuta*, new species.

Dr. Priesner informs me that *Cephenothrips* Pr., 1929, differs from this genus in that the head is more distinctly reticulate, the prothorax is but slightly broader than the head, the fore femur is not at all enlarged, the wings are somewhat widened from base to apex, the accessory hairs along the trailing edge of the fore wing are absent, and the tube is longer. *Necrothrips* Pr., 1924, according to Dr. Priesner, differs in that the eyes are strongly convex and protruding, the mouth cone is longer, antennal segment VIII is not at all narrowed at the base, the fore femur is not enlarged, and the body is more slender.

Apparently from preliminary studies that I have made to date on the Tubulifera, the presence or absence of paired prepectal plates of the neck region is characteristic of genera and possibly even of tribes. This genus lacks this structure (fig. 4). Similarly, the *Liothrips*, *Hoplothrips* and *Phlaeothrips* groups usually do not possess a prepectus and might be, therefore, close relatives of *Pueblothrips*. Those genera which are unquestionably *Haplothrips*-like always bear the prepectal plates as for example *Neohcegeria* (fig. 5). Yet in spite of this difference between *Pueblothrips* and the *Haplothrips* group, this genus does resemble the latter complex in certain features of its general form. My tentative placement of *Pueblothrips* is between the *Haplothrips* and the stem that gave rise to the *Liothrips*, *Hoplothrips* and the *Phlaeothrips* complexes but nearer the phyletic lines of the latter three types.

***Pueblothrips minuta*, new species**

(Figs. 1-4)

Male (Macropterous.) Length distended about 1 mm. Bicolored light brown and pale yellow with red subhypodermal pigmentation in the head and thorax. Head, prothorax, mesothorax, metaseutum, sides of metanotum, fore femora, outer margins of middle and hind femora, and tube light brown; remainder of metathorax and abdomen pale yellow to nearly colorless; remainder of legs pale yellow, slightly more intensely colored than the abdomen. Antennal segments I and II light brown, somewhat lighter than head, apex of II paler; segment III pale yellow; following segments gradually darker until segments VII and VIII almost

as brown as basal half of segment II. Fore wings with a cloud of pale yellow in the mid portion, otherwise wings colorless.

Head broadest through central portion of cheeks; cheek margins nearly straight, with little evidence of lateral serrations; eyes flat against the head, not bulged; fore ocellus barely extending beyond a line drawn across the anterior margins of the eyes, posterior ocelli farther apart from each other than distance either one is from the fore ocellus; antennae arising from the head just forward of the ocellar ridge; antennal segments III and IV each with two outer and one inner apical sense cones, segments V and VI with one outer and one inner apical sense cones, segments VII and VIII with one medio-dorsal apical sense cone.

Prothorax at widest portion of pronotum about three times wider than the median sclerotized length. All setae present minute in size except the well developed posterior laterals. Nonsclerotized area of prosternum with numerous transverse rods within the membrane (fig. 4). Mesonotum with scallop-like sculpture which becomes transverse lines at the posterior margin. Metascutum as for genus (fig. 2). Metapleura weakly reticulate.

Abdomen broadest at segment II, subequal in width to the pterothorax at the region of the hind coxae. Abdominal setae usually pointed, occasionally blunt or dilated at tip. No glandular area discernible on eighth abdominal sternum. Lateral margins of abdominal terga weakly reticulate.

Measurements of holotype (δ): Length distended about 1 mm.; head, length 0.12 mm., greatest width (across cheeks) 0.13 mm.; prothorax (sclerotized portion), median length of pronotum 0.06 mm., greatest width (exclusive of coxae) 0.18 mm.; pterothorax, greatest width 0.22 mm.; abdomen, greatest width 0.22 mm. Length of antennal segments in mm.: I, 0.022; II, 0.032; III, 0.037; IV, 0.033; V, 0.033; VI, 0.031; VII, 0.027; VIII, 0.023; total distended length, 0.238 mm. Length of setae: major head setae about 0.005 mm. or less; posterior laterals 0.020 mm., other major pronotal setae 0.008 mm. or less. Length of tube (segment X) 0.086 mm., width near base, 0.041 mm., width at apex, 0.023 mm.

Female (macropterous). Similar to but slightly larger than the male. Total distended body length of allotype, 1.1 mm.

Holotype, male.—Hueytamalco, Puebla, Mexico, December 30, 1945, J. Alvarez. [Illinois Natural History Survey.]

Allotype, female.—Same data as for holotype [INHS].

Paratypes.—Same data as for holotype, 6 δ , 1 ♀ [INHS, the collection of Prof. Dr. H. Priesner, Cairo, Egypt, and the United States National Museum.]

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